

Municipal Ownership Dropped for Present; White Rock Canyon Project Proposed

COUNCIL HEARS AN OUTLINE OF GREAT POWER PLANT IN CANYON

"Municipally Owned Power and Water Plant Would Pay All Cost of City Government" Says Borradale.

WHOLE PLANT COULD BE BUILT FOR \$800,000

Statement that New York Engineers Are Ready to Take up Project if Albuquerque Will Subscribe One-Fourth of Stock.

The dream of harnessing the waters of the Rio Grande at White Rock canyon, which has received deep thought from time to time from many Albuquerque and New Mexico men, for the furnishing of power for light and motive force and irrigation wells over all central New Mexico, was outlined to the city council last night by Col. John Borradale. The White Rock canyon project has been put into concrete form for the first time by Colonel Borradale, and while he has not worked out details he has reached the point where he can see the completed project, one of the most gigantic in the world, and one, as he pointed it to the council last night, which would revolutionize industry in central New Mexico and make Albuquerque the center of one of the most remarkable systems of power supply in the country.

Colonel Borradale came before the council expecting general discussion of the municipal ownership of the local water works. The prompt dismissal of the special water commission by the council, however, permitted of no general discussion, and the mayor called on Colonel Borradale for his remarks toward the end of the session.

Colonel Borradale has had printed an eight-page, illustrated pamphlet outlining the possibilities of the hydro-electric power project in White Rock canyon and describing the resources of the territory which the plant would serve. The pamphlet is a first-class piece of promotional literature and gives Albuquerque a splendid description. It was prepared for general distribution in connection with the promotion of the power plant. After distributing copies of the pamphlet, among the members of the council Colonel Borradale stated that his object in bringing it before them was not to discuss the power project itself, but to point out its possibilities as a source of water supply for Albuquerque.

The power project, Colonel Borradale said, could and one day would be built, and at a cost as per existing prices for electrical machinery and power dam construction of about \$400,000. This plant, he said, would furnish from two to four thousand horse power, depending upon the capacity of the dam constructed, and would furnish power at remarkably low figures for Las Vegas, Santa Fe,

WATERCOMMISSION QUICKLY CANNED BY COUNCIL LAST NIGHT

Aldermen Vote Unanimously That Special Committee of Citizens Has Reached End of Its Usefulness.

NO THANKS INCLUDED IN MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Council Determined to Drop Further Consideration of Water Supply Until After April Municipal Election.

By unanimous vote of the seven members present, the city council at its regular meeting last night, voted to discharge the citizens' water commission of fifteen, it being the sentiment of the council that the commission had reached the limit of its usefulness at this time.

The action was taken on a motion by Alderman George C. Scheer, and although Alderman Skinner ventured to suggest that the members of the commission should be thanked, no tender of gratitude was included in the motion as adopted. Mr. Scheer included in his motion an order that the council drop all consid-

eration of the future of the city's water supply until after the April municipal election.

Mr. Scheer's motion followed the reading to the council of the resolutions adopted by the special water commission last Friday night, as presented by Nell B. Field and adopted by the commission by a vote of ten to three.

Following the reading of the resolutions Mayor Sellers addressed the council on the subject of the commission's deliberations and conclusions.

"It appears," said the mayor, "that the work of the commission amounts to nothing. They have given us their individual opinions. Instead of the popular sentiment of Albuquerque, to obtain which was one of our principal reasons in appointing the body. Some of the members at least are

prejudiced. One member is reported to have said that he would not take the present water plant as a gift. If the gift implied municipal ownership I can not but think that such a statement implies personal prejudice and nothing else.

"The commission made no effort to get popular sentiment on the question of municipal ownership, with the exception of one member who made an effort to sound the feeling of individual citizens. There were members on the commission who represented large tax paying interests, and such large interests are to be found usually opposed to municipal ownership, because of the fear that in the event of a shortage in operating a municipally owned plant, they will be called upon to bear the burden in taxation, and as a result the beautification of the city and the needs of the small property owner and the poor man are not considered by such interests.

"The commission seems to have made an effort to bring the matter to a point where no further action can be taken and I believe that we can discharge the commission from further service conscientiously."

That the council agreed with the mayor's somewhat emphatic views upon the results accomplished by the commission, was indicated by the prompt action discharging it from further labors.

There were no members of the commission present; not even the persistent member who during the commission's sessions, rose frequently to inquire, "what are we here for?"

87 Philadelphia Babies Abandoned. Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—Eighty-seven babies were abandoned by their parents last year in Philadelphia according to figures on file today at the Children's Aid society. The same list shows that of 519 mothers found to be in destitute circumstances only 54 deserted their children. One hundred and thirty-seven of the fathers deserted their families.

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Pompano Cup Rules Changed. Paris, Feb. 17.—The Pompano cup rules for this year today were changed so that the aviator making the longest flight in a straight line in 26 hours will be declared winner instead of as last year the time being between sun-up and sun-set. The total prize amounts to \$12,000, but is divided into six parts, one to be awarded every six months.